

The Young Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 4772 號二十七百七千四第 日一初月二年西癸治同

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1873.

四年賜 號七十二月二英 港香

[PRICE \$2¹ PER MONTH.]

Arrivals.

Feb. 25, CANDELARIA, Spanish bark, 407, Barredo, Manila 12th February, General Remond & Co.
Feb. 25, TAKI, Gormani, 350, Petersen, Saigon 27th January, and Cape St. James 28th, 8,000 piculs Rice. Wm. Pusey & Co.
Feb. 26, ALBONA, British str., 1,147, Hora, London 22nd December, Gibraltar 30th, Port Said 11th January, Suz 12th, Gallo Slat, Penang 8th February, and Singapore 14th, General—W.M. Poston & Co.
Feb. 26, GLENROY, Brit. str., 1,370, Watt, Shanghai 22nd February, Ballast—GILMAN & Co.
Feb. 26, H.I.C.M. gun-boat CHEN-JU, 28, Poynter, from a Cruise.
Feb. 26, GREAT NORTHERN, Brit. str., 800, Murrill, Amoy 25th February, Ballast—G.N. TELEGRAPH Co.
Feb. 26, PRESTO, Nod. bark, 432, Irgens, Saigon 23rd January, and Cape St. James 24th, 8,900 piculs Rice.—ED. SCHELLHAS & Co.
Feb. 26, MENZALEH, French steamer, 1,008, Mourant, Yokohama 15th Feb., Mails and General—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.
Feb. 26, CLEOPATRA, Brit. str., 432, Irgens, Saigon 23rd January, and Cape St. James 24th, 8,900 piculs Rice.—ED.
Feb. 26, H. GLENROY, Brit. str., 1,370, Watt, Shanghai 22nd February, Ballast—GILMAN & Co.
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Feb. 26, H. GLENROY, Brit. str., 1,370, Watt, Shanghai 22nd February, Ballast—GILMAN & Co.
Feb. 26, H. G. JONES, British bark, 384, Chaplin, Swatow 25th February, Ballast—GILMAN & Co.

Departures.

Feb. 26, GLENROY, str., for Shanghai.
Feb. 26, ROTTERDAM, for Icelio.
Feb. 26, ROTTERDAM, for Samarang.
Feb. 26, BEN LORI, str., for Saigon.
Feb. 26, VESTA, for Whampoa.

Clearances.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE, FEBRUARY 26TH.
Vesta, for Whampoa.
Cedan, for Saigon.

Passengers.

Per Cheops, str., from Amoy.—
Mr. J. W. Danielson.
Per Alona, str., from London, &c.—
9 Chinese.
Per Norna, str., from Swatow.—
Per Menzaleh, str., from Yokohama.—
Per Hongkong, for Malaya.—
Mr. W. D. Dyer, Mr. Peasey, Poole, Capt. Riley, and 10 Japanese.
Per Great Northern, str., from Amoy.—
Mr. and Mrs. Drescher and child.

Reports.

The Spanish bark Candelaria reports left Manila on 12th February, had very strong N.E. monsoon and high sea.

The British steamship Norna reports left Swatow on 25th February at 6 p.m., bad light N.N. monsoon throughout.

The British steamship Cheops reports left Amoy on 25th February, at 11 a.m., experienced foggy weather till 11 p.m. of the 25th, when got clear and fine the rest of passage.

The French steamship Menzaleh reports left Yokohama on 18th February, had variable winds and thick weather throughout the passage.

The German bark TETI reports left Saigon on 27th January, and Cape St. James on the 25th, had the first three days out light variable winds and calms, then strong monsoon and high sea for another three days; after which, moderate monsoon till last three days, when got thick and hazy weather.

The Ned. bark Presto, reports left Saigon on the 23rd January, and Cape St. James on the 24th, had a gale from N. and N.E. three days after leaving lasting three days, with high sea, after which fresh monsoon till the last four days when got calms and light airs with strong current, towards the East; passed a brig, supposed to be the German brig Ocean, from Saigon to Hongkong, on the 14th Feb.

The British steamship Great Northern reports left Amoy on 25th February, had the first part of passage calms and thick fog, latter part light N.E. monsoon; passed the steamship Priam on the morning of 26th, near Pedro Branci; passed the steamship Glen Lyon off Single Island, same afternoon. The bark H. J. Jones and Ned. bark Presto were passed in the Lyse-moua Pass, bound in.

The British steamship Alona reports left London on 22nd December, Gibraltar on the 30th, Port Said on 10th January, Suez on the 12th, Galle on the 31st, Penang on 8th Feb., and Singapore on the 14th, had strong gales of wind from the W. and W.S.W. to Gibraltar; had strong head-Easterly wind to Port Said; in the Red Sea, light variable winds; strong head winds crossing the Indian Ocean to Galle; from thence Singapore fine weather; after which had strong monsoon until till the 24th February; since when had light winds with thick weather.

Vessels from Ports in China and Japan expected in Europe and America.
[Corrected to Date.]
Per Hongkong, for Date of Leaving.
Princess.....Chand (f.o.) Nov. 1
Corea.....London Nov. 1
Sir Harry Parkes, London Nov. 8
Landlross Braus, Chand (f.o.) Nov. 22
Theba.....Hamburg Nov. 30
Mikado.....Falmouth (f.o.) Dec. 8
London.....London Dec. 11
Sir Wm. Walpole, London Dec. 15
Her Majesty.....New York Nov. 19
Rijs.....New York Jan. 19
Irvine.....New York Jan. 20
Gmeluk.....New York Feb. 4

FROM AMOY.
J. H. Worcester, New York, Dec. 2
J. H. Worcester, New York, Dec. 16

FROM SHANGAI.
Mikado.....New York, Oct. 21
Sir Jameson, Falmouth, London, Oct. 23
Araby Maid.....London, Oct. 23
Aman.....London, Oct. 29
E. A. Oliver.....New York, Nov. 1
Fauny Brasler.....New York, Nov. 4
Morro Castle.....New York, Nov. 7
Mary Whitting.....New York, Nov. 15
Clay Babuian.....New York, Nov. 23
Withcock.....New York, Nov. 24
Glasgow.....London, Nov. 25
Hopewell.....London, Nov. 29
Fiery Cross.....London, Dec. 3
Sarah Nicholson.....New York, Dec. 10
Lady Elizabeth.....New York, Dec. 28
Borealis.....New York, Dec. 28
Elizabeth Graham.....New York, Jan. 17
Omba.....New York, Jan. 25

NOTICE.
The undersigned having been appointed Agent for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of \$10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1872.

CONTRIBUTORS of business to the above mentioned Company are hereby required to have their business underwritten by the undersigned, and thereafter to accept our quotations for the year ending 31st December, 1872, in order that their share of the divisible profits may be ascertained. Should such Contributors fail to render the returns specified, their accounts will be made up in conformity with the books of the Company.

OLYPHANT & CO., General Agents, if 24 Hongkong, 1st January, 1873

NOTICE.
The undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Insurance as follows—

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Polices at current rates, payable either here in London, or at the principal Ports of India, China, and Australia.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Polices issued for long or short periods at current rates.

A discount of 20% allowed.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Polices issued for sums not exceeding £5,000, on reasonable terms.

HOLIDAY, WISE & CO., 1865, Hongkong, 26th July, 1872.

CHINA AND JAPAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE ATTENTION OF SHIPPERS is called to the future distribution of the Profits of this Company, two-thirds (2/3rds) of which, after payment of interest, will be divided amongst all Contributors of business, whether Shareholders or not, rateably in proportion to the amount of Net Premium contributed.

W.M. PUSTAU & CO., Agents, if 663 Hongkong, 9th April, 1872.

Banks.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
PAID UP CAPITAL, \$5,000,000 of Dollars
RESERVE FUND, \$1,000,000 of Dollars.

Court of Directors—

Chairman—S. D. SMITH, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—W. H. PARKER, Esq.

R. F. HORN, Esq.

H. M. LEITCHER, Esq.

J. A. JONES, Esq.

H. B. LEWIS, Esq.

Chief Manager—

Hongkong—James Greig, Esq.

Shanghai—Ewen Cameron, Esq.

London Bankers—London and County Bank.

HONGKONG.

INTEREST ALLOWED.

On Current Deposit Accounts at the rate of

per cent per annum on the daily balance.

On Fixed Deposits—

For 3 months 2 per cent. per annum.

19 5

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits—granted on approved Securities, and every Description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts—granted on London, and the chief commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

JAMES GREIG, Chief Manager

Office of the Corporation, No. 1, Queen's Road East.

1862 Hongkong, 13th February, 1873.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE DIVIDEND declared for the half year ending on 31st December last, at the rate of

Twelve per cent. per annum, say \$750 per paid-up Share of \$125, is payable on and after

FRIDAY, the 1st instant, at the Offices of the

Corporation, where Shareholders are re-

quested to apply for Warrants.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

JAMES GREIG, Chief Manager

1862 Hongkong, 13th February, 1873.

AGRA BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

With immediate possession.

THAT DESIRABLE HOUSE marked B, Holly-

wood Road, facing HOTEL D'Europe, at

present occupied by S. D. GUTHRIE, Esq.

Apply to

A. D. DE MELLO & CO., Macao,

or

ROZARIO & CO., Hongkong.

1m 209 Hongkong, 5th February, 1873.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING COMPANY.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE DIVIDEND declared for the half year

ended 31st Dec., 1872, at the rate of

Six per cent. per annum (6 1/4%), will be paid on and after

FRIDAY, the 2nd instant, at the rate of

12 per cent. per annum.

Dividend Warrants must be obtained from

the Acting Secretary at the office of the

Company, No. 1, Club Chambers.

By Order,

ROBERT DUNCAN, Acting Secretary

1m 313 Hongkong, 25th February, 1873.

HONGKONG, CANTON, AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE DIVIDEND declared at the rate of

16 per cent. per annum, say \$125 per

paid-up Share of \$125, is payable on and after

FRIDAY, the 2nd instant, at the rate of

12 per cent. per annum.

Dividend Warrants for the same on application to

the office of the Company for Warrants.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & CO., General Agents

1m 557 Hongkong, 1st April, 1871.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE.

THE DIVIDEND declared for the half year

ended 31st Dec., 1872, at the rate of

20 per cent. per annum (20 1/4%), will be paid on and after

FRIDAY, the 2nd instant, at the rate of

16 per cent. per annum.

Dividend W

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY

For 1873.

NOW READY.

THIS Work, now in the ELEVENTH year of its existence, is ready for delivery.

It has been compiled and printed at the Daily Press Office, as usual, from the best and most authentic sources, and no pains have been spared to make the work complete in all respects.

In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of the CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1873 has been further augmented by a

CHROMO-LITHOGRAPH

OF THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF SHANGHAI.

In addition to a Chromo-Lithograph Plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT THE PEAK;

also of

THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS (Designed expressly for this Work);

MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN,

and of the

THE COAST OF CHINA;

besides other local information and statistics, corrected to date of publication, leading to make this work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

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Singapore.....Strand Office.

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London.....Mr. F. ALAR, Clement's Lane.

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New York.....MESSRS. S. M. PETERSON & CO.

37, Park Row.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, FEBRUARY 27TH, 1873.

Our readers have no doubt noticed that some time ago the Chairman of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce addressed a letter to H. B. M. Minister at Pekin, in which his attention was directed to the urgent necessity of some steps being taken for the conservation of the Wangpoo River, and in which it was suggested that if the Chinese authorities continued unwilling to meet the necessary expenditure, the House Renters should be permitted to do so, by levying a small tax upon the trade of the port.

This proposition, although it at first sight appears open to some objections, is on the whole fair enough, and if the Ministers at Pekin be unable to induce the Chinese to act in the matter, it is at least to be hoped that they will consent to allowing the House Renters at Shanghai to take it in hand themselves.

That the Chinese may be properly called upon to defray this expense can scarcely be denied. They receive heavy tonnage dues annually from the shipping coming to Shanghai, and it is always understood that the expenditure necessary to preserve the navigability of rivers should be defrayed out of revenue thus obtained.

This is not specifically set forth in the Treaty, but provision is made in that instrument through in rather vague terms for the erection of buoys and lighthouses, and the preservation of the stream comes practically within the same category.

At the time that the Treaty was signed, the difficulty which is now most pressing, namely, the filling up of the stream at the Woosung Bar, was not apparent, or, doubtless, some provision would have been made for it. At all events, the request that the Chinese Government should defray the cost out of the Tonnage Dues would be very reasonable ones on the merits of the case, and it is to be hoped Mr. Wade and the other foreign Ministers will succeed in inducing the Chinese authorities to see the matter in that light.

Should this, however, be impossible, we cannot see how a refusal can be made to permit the levy of an annual tax by the House Renters for the purpose. The difficulty at Woosung has been yearly increasing, and it is becoming urgent that steps should be taken to supply dredging machines or other appliances to remove it. The constant detention of large and expensive steamers is becoming a serious drawback to trade, and the time has come when something ought certainly to be done with regard to it.

The mode proposed is, next to the deviation of a portion of the Tonnage Dues to the purpose, the best probably that can be devised. The taxation necessary will no doubt fall in some measure upon those not immediately interested in steamers; but if it be levied in the form of an increase of the Wharfage dues, it will be paid by those who are directly concerned in the commerce of the port, and who in one form or another may be fairly considered interested in the removal of a most objectionable obstruction to trade.

The means of levying the necessary funds are already at hand in the Municipal regulations, under which the foreign Settlements at Shanghai are governed; and it will be a great benefit, should the Chinese authorities refuse to act in the matter, if the alternative suggested can be acted upon.

To judge from a paragraph which our co-temporary reproduced yesterday from a Sin-

gapore paper, it appears that the want of efficient interpreting in the Law Courts is as much felt there as it is here, and there may be some faint hope that the attention of the Home Government will be directed to this subject, now that it has been taken up in a Colony which seems much more fortunate in commanding the ear of the Home Government than Hongkong. It is certainly a great disgrace to this Colony that, notwithstanding all the elaborate arrangements which have been made to send out student interpreters, not one thoroughly efficient European Interpreter is to be found in the Courts to which it might have been thought they would have been specially appointed.

Had this and been kept in view, there can be very little doubt that it could long ago have been attained, but the Student Interpreters have been gradually placed in other posts than in which their speciality would be of most obvious service to the public. It is not, however, only in the direction of Chinese interpreting that our Courts are defective. In regard to most European languages the Supreme Court is entirely dependent upon chance service, not having any one regularly recognised as Interpreter, even for so well-known a language as French, to interpret which, on one occasion, it was necessary to call in the services of the French Consul. Such a difficulty as this might, one would think, easily be met by some arrangement with one or two gentlemen having a competent knowledge of European languages. A small retainer would probably be quite sufficient for the purpose, or perhaps even an arrangement might be made for recognised interpreters to be remunerated by the ordinary fees when cases arose. As it is, the interpreting from European languages is often very defectively performed, and considerable confusion thus results from a cause, which it would certainly not be difficult to remedy.

I am, gentlemen,
Yours respectfully,
J. W. TORREY,
General Manager,
Hongkong, 24th February, 1873.REPORT OF MR. D. S. DOWSON,
HONGKONG,
24th February, 1873.

I beg to report that the new Still produced at the works, 4,633 galls. of Spirits from 1,044 piculs of molasses, in thirty-two working hours, being at the rate of 47 galls. to the picul. It would be fair to say that the still is a considerable quantity of Wash and Feints was lost by defects in the pumps, causing extensive overflows of the Hot Wine. When the new wares are in the hands of the producer, I have every reason to believe that the produce will be six piculs per picul.

I consider the machinery of the Distillery

with the exception of the pumps and condensers, is in still good order.

Mr. D. S. D. Dowson, a verdict equivalent to

that of the Stillhouse, is to be in good order,

and requiring little or no expenditure during the next twelve months. I think that some of the former Stills might now be dispensed with, and would recommend the sale of two of them.

I would also recommend that the pumps at present in the Stillhouse be disposed of, and a new set of pumps, calculated expressly for the work, be ordered without delay.

YOKOHAMA.

Japan Mail, February 15th.

We have to record a sad and fatal accident which occurred on Wednesday evening, resulting in the death of several coolies; how many, however, it has been impossible to accurately ascertain, though it is estimated that out of fifty-two some fifteen have been drowned. It appears that a cable sample belonging to the P. M. S. S. Co. was being hauled by fifty coolies to the P. M. S. S. Co.'s wharf, and when off the creek, where there is frequently a sloping sand bar, the boat filled and sank, and left the coolies struggling for their lives. Immediately on witnessing this accident numbers of persons put off from the shore to assist the unfortunate coolies, and among the French marines and sailors, White and Dowson. On arriving at the scene of the accident, the coolies were made to return to the creek, despite the coldness of the water, pinching in for this purpose. All but about fifteen were saved. The foreigner, whose name we understand is Jacobson, was also picked up, but was too fat and never recovered. At an instant held on his body by Mr. Badfus, a verdict equivalent to that of the Stillhouse, was rendered. Mr. P. S. Dowson had death was certified. The coolies were buried with great gallantry and humanity, and plunged into the water in hopes of rescuing some of the poor creatures who were struggling there. In this connection, I would like to call to the act in the

Friday evening.

It is

the

accident

of

the

Extracts.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.
(Times, January 10th.—Continued.)

Between the "Elected" of December, however, and the millions of his electors there was a conditional, though an irrevocable, compact. The French nation—or, at least, that part of it which constituted a majority resulting from the experiment of universal suffrage—had accepted its ruler on his own terms. The alternative lay between order and freedom, and he said "Order at all events; Freedom whenever it might be!" As a President and as an Emperor, Napoleon always deemed the perfection of government to lie in the combination both of legislative and executive power in the same hand. His notions of a Constitution were those of the Consulate, and the first Empire, and he seemed to forget that the concentration of all power in one hand had only been deemed advisable by the First Napoleon when he aspired to grasp France as a sword, and that the system had broken down, by concession of its original inventor, towards the close of his reign. With a new Empire which was to be "Peace"—there was no longer a necessity for the same strong military organization, and liberty should, therefore, have been compatible with it. But the tendency of the people, like that of their ruler, at the time of Salzburg, although followed by all manner of satisfactory assurances, kept minds uneasy as to the new relations of France with her neighbours, and stimulated the audacity of those reckless men who fish for profit and popularity in troubled waters. Ugly omens multiplied towards the close of the year, urging the Emperor towards some decided if not desperate resolution. The incident like regret and anguish seemed at times to assalt the Sovereign in the awful solitude of his elevation. It was not for his own sake, not from personal ambition, he hinted, that so unbecoming a power had been placed in his hands. He held it simply on trust. The people's liberties were only in abeyance. Indeed, a show was made now and then of slackening the reins of Government. Imperialism was described as its temporary structure—a means to an end; the application of force to the establishment of legal authority. When the end was attained, when order could be pronounced quite safe, the superstructure should be removed, and the "crowning of the edifice" would follow.

It is difficult to say to what extent the Emperor deceived himself or others. But, whatever his intentions might be, they could not be carried into effect without far greater resolution than seemed at any time to be at his command. His rule had sprung from the masses; it was identified with the multitude. He had ascended the Throne as the "Working Man's Friend"; the Emperor of the Peasant". The millions who reigned through him were not as ready to resign their supremacy as he, perhaps, might have been. The Senate consisted of his own nominees; the Legislative Body was elected by constituents over which his Administration was supposed to exercise almost absolute control. But there was in that Senate, in that Elective Assembly, in that Administration, in that vast mass of voters, a party, a vastly predominant party, which would stand up for Imperialism even against the Emperor. With such a Constitution as the Emperor framed mere legislative improvement must needs be illusory. It was impossible to get over the fact that in a State like the France of the present day the mass of the nation overrode its intelligence; the body crushed the soul. The right of the upper and middle classes had come to an end in that country with the first and second revolution. It was now the turn of the Government to be in the hands of a mere mob or in that of a mob-delegated despot. With all its purple and gold the Imperial Government was here to the communistic notions of the Red Republican régime. The Emperor's mission was to tax rich for the benefit of the poor. By his arbitrary control over the price of bread, by his promotion of public works, the Emperor was perpetually bringing back his authority to its original sources. Put that authority to the test of hundred elections, and the suffrage would always give the same results.

The assurance of almost boundless popular support was a source of weakness no less than of strength. With the exception of a few ambitious statesmen, and still fewer more or less devoted friends of the fallen dynasties, there were no elements for wholesale legal opposition in France. Hence the various proposals of the Emperor for an extension of constitutional liberties could hardly find sufficient support from the enlightened classes to overcome the mutinous ill-will of the mob-majority. It required the personal influence of the Sovereign to force even such partial measures as the Press and Public Meetings Bill through a Legislature otherwise too ready to endorse all other Imperial Acts of home and foreign policy.

A Government placed so widely above all check or hindrance had it certainly in its power to achieve much, and twenty years of Imperial rule have not been without most splendid results for the general welfare of France. Within its own boundaries the country had never known a period of greater material progress. Beyond them, till very recent times, it had exercised an influence grounded on a moral prestige more than commensurate with its actual strength. The recognition of the advantages of Prussia's military system came most inopportune of the Emperor to confirm a favourite saying of his, "That a nation's influence is gauged by the number of soldiers it can bring into the field." The Army Bill was no doubt a disastrous measure for him, but he had been driving into a most difficult dilemma. He had to choose between resigning himself to a condition of comparative weakness, which must infallibly be exposed sooner or later, and a measure that levied "a tribute of blood" on the classes where he found his warmest supporters. The dilemma was a difficult one. The Emperor had, indeed, asserted his ascendancy by a pretension of controlling circumstances which had passed almost unchallenged. He had biased the poker of Europe by merely indicating the attitude of France. But the state of affairs had been insensibly shifting, until he had become conscious of a pressure he was powerless to resist. He had been led by Cavour, and the astuteness of the Italian statesman had betrayed him into positions where his only safety lay in pressing onwards. Now he was being forced by Bismarck. As Germany grew strong Europe was threatened with a change of masters, and it seemed that in the future the impulses in European politics might come as probably from Berlin as from Paris. The Emperor's sense of the change was indicated by his language. He affected to consider the disruption of the German Confederation as a weakening of Germany. One of those inspired pamphlets that appeared from time to time traced the parallel between the First and the Second Empires to the advantage of the latter. Napoleon III and his uncle had been revolving in identical historical cycles. But the pamphlets stopped short in their comparisons. He neglected to point out that Sadowa, with its disclosures more than its successes, was the Moscow of that Second Empire which was paying the penalty of the domineering pretensions of the First. The Seven Weeks' War demonstrated the results of that military system which France had forced upon Prussia after the crowning victory of Jena. Now the Emperor recognized that, thanks to the apathy or irresolution he had certainly not borrowed from his uncle, the regular

standing armies of France had to count with a nation of civilian-soldiers, trained, armed, and organized. His folk there was truth in the invectives of those political opponents who, appealing to the pride of France, told him he had blundered away France's commanding influence. It must be proved sooner or later whether he or they were in the right, and, with a belief in his destiny which had begun to falter, he set himself to prepare for the inevitable test.

At this time, too, he was already a prey to the painful malady to which he yesterday succumbed, and to doubt fully suffering entreated the resolution which had once been believed indomitable. Radical and Republican pamphleteers and journalists plotted over his ailments in language that outraged decency and humanity. Rochefort's *Le Temps* became a feature in Parisian life; the noble-toned Socialist shot his daily flight of poisoned arrows, and respectable Paris laughed, as its wont is, forgiving the coquettishness of the scurrilous for the sake of the keenness of the sarcasm. It became clear that things were ripening for a crisis, unless the credit of the Emperor was to be saved by his death; yet none but fanatic Red Republicans ready to believe in everything they longed for could have fancied the end of the Empire so imminent.

The year '68 must have been one of great soreheads of the heart of the Court of the Tuilleries. The interview of the German Emperors at Salzburg, although followed by all manner of satisfactory assurances, kept minds uneasy as to the new relations of France with her neighbours, and stimulated the audacity of those reckless men who fish for profit and popularity in troubled waters. Ugly omens multiplied towards the close of the year, urging the Emperor towards some decided if not desperate resolution. The incident like regret and anguish seemed at times to assalt the Sovereign in the awful solitude of his elevation. It was not for his own sake, not from personal ambition, he hinted, that so unbecoming a power had been placed in his hands. He held it simply on trust. The people's liberties were only in abeyance. Indeed, a show was made now and then of slackening the reins of Government. Imperialism was described as its temporary structure—a means to an end; the application of force to the establishment of legal authority. When the end was attained, when order could be pronounced quite safe, the superstructure should be removed, and the "crowning of the edifice" would follow.

It is difficult to say to what extent the Emperor deceived himself or others. But, whatever his intentions might be, they could not be carried into effect without far greater resolution than seemed at any time to be at his command. His rule had sprung from the masses; it was identified with the multitude. He had ascended the Throne as the "Working Man's Friend"; the Emperor of the Peasant". The millions who reigned through him were not as ready to resign their supremacy as he, perhaps, might have been. The Senate consisted of his own nominees; the Legislative Body was elected by constituents over which his Administration was supposed to exercise almost absolute control. But there was in that Senate, in that Elective Assembly, in that Administration, in that vast mass of voters, a party, a vastly predominant party, which would stand up for Imperialism even against the Emperor. With such a Constitution as the Emperor framed mere legislative improvement must needs be illusory. It was impossible to get over the fact that in a State like the France of the present day the mass of the nation overrode its intelligence; the body crushed the soul. The right of the upper and middle classes had come to an end in that country with the first and second revolution. It was now the turn of the Government to be in the hands of a mere mob or in that of a mob-delegated despot. With all its purple and gold the Imperial Government was here to the communistic notions of the Red Republican régime. The Emperor's mission was to tax rich for the benefit of the poor. By his arbitrary control over the price of bread, by his promotion of public works, the Emperor was perpetually bringing back his authority to its original sources. Put that authority to the test of hundred elections, and the suffrage would always give the same results.

The assurance of almost boundless popular support was a source of weakness no less than of strength. With the exception of a few ambitious statesmen, and still fewer more or less devoted friends of the fallen dynasties, there were no elements for wholesale legal opposition in France. Hence the various proposals of the Emperor for an extension of constitutional liberties could hardly find sufficient support from the enlightened classes to overcome the mutinous ill-will of the mob-majority. It required the personal influence of the Sovereign to force even such partial measures as the Press and Public Meetings Bill through a Legislature otherwise too ready to endorse all other Imperial Acts of home and foreign policy.

A Government placed so widely above all check or hindrance had it certainly in its power to achieve much, and twenty years of Imperial rule have not been without most splendid results for the general welfare of France. Within its own boundaries the country had never known a period of greater material progress. Beyond them, till very recent times, it had exercised an influence grounded on a moral prestige more than commensurate with its actual strength. The recognition of the advantages of Prussia's military system came most inopportune of the Emperor to confirm a favourite saying of his, "That a nation's influence is gauged by the number of soldiers it can bring into the field." The Army Bill was no doubt a disastrous measure for him, but he had been driving into a most difficult dilemma. He had to choose between resigning himself to a condition of comparative weakness, which must infallibly be exposed sooner or later, and a measure that levied "a tribute of blood" on the classes where he found his warmest supporters. The dilemma was a difficult one. The Emperor had, indeed, asserted his ascendancy by a pretension of controlling circumstances which had passed almost unchallenged. He had biased the poker of Europe by merely indicating the attitude of France. But the state of affairs had been insensibly shifting, until he had become conscious of a pressure he was powerless to resist. He had been led by Cavour, and the astuteness of the Italian statesman had betrayed him into positions where his only safety lay in pressing onwards. Now he was being forced by Bismarck. As Germany grew strong Europe was threatened with a change of masters, and it seemed that in the future the impulses in European politics might come as probably from Berlin as from Paris. The Emperor's sense of the change was indicated by his language. He affected to consider the disruption of the German Confederation as a weakening of Germany. One of those inspired pamphlets that appeared from time to time traced the parallel between the First and the Second Empires to the advantage of the latter. Napoleon III and his uncle had been revolving in identical historical cycles. But the pamphlets stopped short in their comparisons.

We judge him with tolerable confidence after the event, and enlightened by results, we may estimate pretty fairly the formidable difficulties against which he precipitated himself. The fact remains that at that time men who would rather have been of the dynasty believed so firmly established that the best and most patriotic course was to come to an understanding with it. Men patriotic and ambitious, like Olivier Buffet, and Duret, ambitious office and under-take the execution of this new programme. Yet the signs of the time were thickening. Not the least significant was the retirement of Haussmann, whose magnificent schemes had developed, and arrived at a stage where perseverance might have been the true economy, and so terribly embarrassed the finances of the capital. It was an acknowledgment that the Empire had reached the limits of its lavish expenditure, and pushed to

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NOTICE.

IN HONGKONG MARKETS.

As Reported by CHINA on the 26th February, 1873.

COTTON GOODS.

COTTON YARN, No. 16 & 24, per picul \$12.00 & \$120.00.

" 28 & 42, per picul \$12.00 & \$120.00.

SALT SHRIMP, 7 cwt. 72 lbs. per picul \$2.20 & 10.00.

" 8 & 9 lbs. " 2.45 " 12.00.

" 9 & 10 lbs. " 3.00 " 15.00.

WHITE SHIRTINGS, 9 cwt. 72 lbs. per picul \$2.20 & 10.00.

" 10 & 11 lbs. " 2.75 " 15.00.

" 11 & 12 lbs. " 3.00 " 15.00.

WHITE SPOTTED, Do. per picul \$2.20 & 10.00.

" 12 & 13 lbs. " 2.50 " 15.00.

AMERICAN DRILLS, 50 yards per picul \$2.00 & 10.00.

" 40 " 2.00 " 10.00.

GRAY CLOTH, 24 yds. & 22 lbs. per picul \$1.75 & 9.00.

" 25 " 1.80 " 9.00.

SILK FABRIC, 24 yds. per picul \$1.75 & 9.00.

DRED SEAFOOD, Do. per picul \$3.00 & 15.00.

DRED BLOACATE, Do. per picul \$3.00 & 15.00.

DRED DAMAK, Do. per picul \$6.00 & 30.00.

CHIFFON, Do. per picul \$7.00 & 35.00.

HENDERSON'S BLOOM, Do. per picul \$7.00 & 35.00.

HONGKONG, Do. per picul \$0.75 & 3.75.

HONGKONG, Do. per picul \$0.75 & 3.75.